

Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP)

Description:

The Department of Social Services, Energy Services Unit administers the Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP). CHAP pays a one-time \$625 benefit for households with incomes between 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and 60 percent of the State Median Income. Program participation is limited to funding availability. Funds for this program are limited. Persons do not qualify for CHAP if heating costs are included in their rent. Applications must be filed in person with the [Community Action Agency](#) (refer to page II – 10 in this manual) in the applicant's town of residence. Appointments must be made to file applications; individuals, who are unable to go to the Community Action Agency in person because of a disability, may request that Agency staff come to their home to process the application. Applications must be filed annually and generally take up to 45 days to be processed.

Households are automatically considered income eligible for heating assistance benefits if *all* household members participate in one or more of the following Department of Social Services programs: Temporary Family Assistance; State Supplement to the Aged, Blind and Disabled; Refugee Cash Assistance Program and Food Stamps. Program participants must meet all other eligibility requirements associated with these programs to receive benefits.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must have an annual income of \$29,272 or less for single individuals; \$38,279 or less for couples.
- There is a liquid assets test. Liquid assets include savings and checking accounts, stocks and mutual funds. They do not include home equity, car values and life insurance policies. The Department of Social Services disregards the first \$10,000 homeowners have in liquid assets; however, if homeowners have more than \$10,000 the excess dollars are added to their yearly incomes. When these dollars are added, income cannot exceed 60 percent of the state median income to be eligible for the program (refer to [Appendix E](#) for income guidelines). Similarly, the Department disregards the first \$7,000 renters have in liquid assets.
- Must not be receiving assistance under the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

- Must apply by May 1st to establish eligibility for basic benefits. November 1st is the first day for authorization of fuel deliveries and March 16th is the last day fuel deliveries can be authorized and the first day for fuel deliveries for which CHAP benefits contribute.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

The intake period is November 1 – May 1, or May 15 for persons who have a shut-off notice and who hat with a utility.

Contact Information:

For general information contact:

Department of Social Services

Energy Services Division

25 Sigourney Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Telephone: 800-842-1132

Website: www.ct.gov/staywarm

To file an application contact the local Community Action Agency, refer to [Appendix B](#).

Related Information:

[Connecticut Energy Assistance Program \(CEAP\), refer to page XVII – 1.](#)